



News from **Councilmember Todd Gloria**

City of San Diego ▪ District Three

Friends,

I'm happy to be back in San Diego after three busy and productive days in our nation's capital. As you know, it's a rare occurrence for me to go beyond the boundaries of the best Council District, so I made the most of the visit to Washington, D.C. Some of the highlights are included below, along with some critical budget news, some great news for Balboa Park, and reminders about this Saturday's community coffee and the utility undergrounding workshop on September 24.

While away, I was alerted early yesterday morning about a series of arsons in Hillcrest and Downtown. I am grateful to the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department personnel who fought the fires to minimize damage and also to the San Diego Police Department who apprehended a suspect. I appreciate knowing that San Diego is in such good hands.

Representing San Diego in Washington, D.C.

I was proud to carry San Diego's interests to leaders in Washington, D.C. earlier this week and bring back some ideas for making our City even better. I had a great meeting with leaders of the Smithsonian Institution on ways we can partner on Balboa Park's 2015 Centennial Celebration; met with transportation leaders to advocate for extending the trolley and expanding Bus Rapid Transit locally; was briefed on the Defense Department budget, which is critical to our economy because one in four San Diegans is employed in a military-related job; and led a series of meetings focused on homelessness and how our federal partners can assist local initiatives to tackle this important problem. I also was excited to see a bike sharing program blossoming in Washington, D.C. Stay tuned for news early next week about what we're doing locally along the same lines.

Being in Washington for the 11th anniversary of the September 11 attacks brought even more solemnity to the occasion. Our nation and our world changed that day, and we will never forget the sacrifices made then and since by first responders, our military, and citizens. It is helpful for me to find ways to honor the people who answered the call on September 11, 2001, and last Saturday I had the opportunity to participate in the Second Annual 9-11 Memorial Stair Climb. Organized locally by the San Diego Fireman's Relief Association and benefiting FirefighterAid, the event allowed firefighters and others to climb to the top of the Hilton San Diego Bayfront Hotel three times, the same number of floors that were in the World Trade Center, wearing a badge with the picture and name of a fallen first responder. I climbed for New York firefighter Lawrence Virgilio; I assure you we will never forget.

San Diego's Budget: A Wake Up Call

As the Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee, I have worked diligently with my council colleagues, Mayor Sanders, and City staff to stabilize and strengthen San Diego's finances. Since 2008, our budget has gone from a deficit of more than \$200 million to a surplus for Fiscal Year 2013. After years of budget cuts, our reform efforts, compensation agreements with City

employees, managed competition savings, and the global economic recovery combined this year to make restoration of necessary services possible.

It is now clear that our hard work to balance the City's budget may be compromised as a result of Prop B, which was approved by voters in June.

I have recently learned that the City's Annual Required Contribution (ARC) to SDCERS in Fiscal Year 2014 is estimated to be as much as \$37 million higher than previously anticipated because of Prop B and because of lower than anticipated investment returns. The payment may be approximately \$273.2 million.

It is imperative that we consider how this unanticipated expense may impact City services. Options for how to move forward must be considered carefully. The Budget and Finance Committee will discuss this critical topic as we receive an update on the City's current financial conditions at our meeting on September 26. I look forward to addressing this newest challenge proactively, intelligently, and efficiently. As always, I welcome your feedback. I will keep you updated as plans on how to address this change develop.

Balboa Park is \$2.6 Million Richer Thanks to Federal Grant

Last Friday, I had the opportunity to congratulate the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership for securing a \$2.6 million award from the National Science Foundation. The funded project is called "Integrating Informal STEM and Arts-Based Learning to Foster Innovation." The work of our Balboa Park institutions is fascinating, and I'm proud that it continues to gain national recognition.

Make San Diego More Walkable and Have Coffee with Your Councilmember

Join me this Saturday, September 15 at Caffé Calabria as I debut a walk audit mobile app and chat with neighbors. BestWALK is a new walkability smart phone app custom made for the San Diego region. The app will crowdsource data from residents across San Diego to rate what it's like to walk in our communities and contribute to a map of improvements for future funding.

I will walk a few streets in North Park this Saturday morning, enter in data, and rate North Park's walkability.

Following the walk and app demonstration, I will hold a community coffee session, and you are invited to attend and discuss City issues of interest to you.

Walk and Have Coffee with Your Councilmember
Saturday, September 15, 10:00 a.m. Walk / 10:30 a.m. Coffee
Meet at Caffé Calabria, 3933 30th Street

If you can't make it for the walk app demonstration, you can still help make San Diego more walkable. Don't have a smart phone? No worries. Paper survey forms can be downloaded at www.walksandiego.org. Register as a volunteer today. No experience required. All ages welcome. You can volunteer to walk 1-2 hours in September and input data. You can also become a Volunteer Leader to help recruit and organize volunteers in your neighborhood. Sign up at www.walksandiego.org/get-involved/volunteer.

Utility Undergrounding Workshop is September 24

Please join me for a workshop with local utility companies about the impact of utility boxes on neighborhood character, and the process for community input into the placement and aesthetics of the boxes. The workshop will be held on Monday, September 24 from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the Santa Fe Room of the Balboa Park Club.

As efforts continue to transfer overhead wires and cables underground, many questions and concerns have arisen from neighbors about the work and about the utility boxes that result.

Early this summer, I brought forward community concerns about utility boxes to local utility companies, who agreed to a series of public workshops to address common issues. The first workshop was held by the Community Planners Committee on July 24. The session at Balboa Park will focus more on public comments and questions.

Representatives from local utility companies will be present to engage in an open dialogue with the public about ways that community impacts from utility boxes and might be reduced.

Utility Undergrounding Workshop
Monday, September 24
6:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Santa Fe Room at the Balboa Park Club

Please RSVP to toddgloria@sandiego.gov.

City Taking Steps to Keep Streets Smooth

Today, the Land Use and Housing Committee considered proposed changes to the Municipal Code that would create procedures, requirements, and limitations for excavating San Diego's roads and implement a Street Damage Fee.

The City of San Diego has wisely increased our investment in road repairs and repaving over the last three years. The changes that moved forward today will help ensure our streets are protected when utilities need to excavate or trench in the public right-of-way.

Historically, streets were often torn up for water or sewer improvements or utility work shortly after being repaved or repaired. The changes discussed today would coordinate excavation work and resurfacing work so roads can be maintained longer term and the City's investments are not wasted.

Among the other changes proposed:

- Requires that all utilities twice per year submit to the City major work anticipated to be completed in the public right-of-way in the upcoming 24 months so that projects can be better coordinated;
- Requires that excavation work begin within 90 calendar days of the permit start date and is completed within one year;
- Increases the length of the existing moratorium for excavations on slurried/resurfaced streets from 1 year/3 years for slurry/overlay to 3 years/5 years in order to maintain the improved condition of the street for a longer period of time;
- Extends the cost recovery for degradation of the asset resulting from excavations in the public right-of-way to municipal excavators by charging them the Street Damage Fee.

I believe the parties who excavate in the public right-of-way should bear the full cost of restoring smooth road conditions following their work. San Diego taxpayers drive and bike on our roads, and we pay for their repaving. We should not be forced to also pay to restore the same roads that other people damage.

The changes were forwarded to the full City Council for consideration. A City Council hearing date has not yet been set.

Temporary Suspension of the Power Beach Wheelchair Program

San Diego's beaches are some of our greatest natural assets, and I've been proud to ensure greater beach access for locals and visitors with mobility challenges by contributing to the Beach Wheelchair Program. Please note that the Power Beach Wheelchair service provided by the Park and Recreation Department at Mission Beach will be suspended effective Monday, September 17. Construction will be underway on the Mission Beach Lifeguard Station and due to lack of storage space and safety concerns, the power chairs will not be available during this time. Renovations are projected to be completed in 66 days and service will resume as soon as it is safe to do so, hopefully by early December. Manual beach wheelchairs will still be available for check-out from lifeguards at all the main towers, including Mission Beach.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Todd".

Todd

If you would no longer like to receive updates, please visit
<http://www.sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd3>.